

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00645 021458Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 FBOE-00 A-01

INR-10 CPR-01 /043 W

-----130463 021557Z /41

R 021420Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0696

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0645

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, DM, US

SUBJ: EMBASSY CHANCERY: BENIN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES PRESSING FOR
DATA

REF: COTONOU 229

1. GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB) PROTOCOL CHIEF, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT INSPECTION OF CHANCERY WOULD BE CONTRARY TO PROVISIONS OF VIENNA CONVENTION, ASKED EMBASSY COOPERATION IN PROVIDING DATA TO GOVERNMENT. SPECIFICALLY, HE REQUESTED A PLAN OF THE CHANCERY AS WELL AS AN ESTIMATE OF THE VALUE OF THE BUILDINGS. CHARGE DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM BUT SAID HE WOULD REPORT REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

2. UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, PLAN TO INFORM PAQUI THAT THIS IS NOT A MATTER IN WHICH THE EMBASSY CAN COOPERATE SINCE BUILDING PLANS AND PROPERTY VALUE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE LANDLORD.

3. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO SUSPECT THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY ATTEMPTING CIRCUMVENT LANDLORD, GENERAL SOGLO, A FORMER HEAD OF STATE AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES HAS REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH GPRB IN PROVIDING DATA WHICH WOULD BE USED THEORETICALLY TO ESTABLISH TERMS OF COMPENSATION WHEN PROPERTY IS INCORPORATED INTO A "SECURITY ZONE" AROUND CAMP GUEZO.

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PAGE 02 COTONO 00645 021458Z

ALTHOUGH GENERAL SOGLO IS IN BENIN, WE HAVE NOT CONTACTED HIM SINCE HE HAS TOLD US THAT HE WILL NEVER RELINQUISH HIS PROPERTY TO GPRB. WE WOULD PREFER TO KEEP EMBASSY OUT OF A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BETWEEN GPRB AND PROMINENT OLD REGIME FIGURE.
THOMPSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 02 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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